

**National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC)  
Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points  
Monday, July 15, 2019  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT**

**Roll Call**

***Tribal Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: William (Billy) Longfellow  
(Passamaquoddy at Sipayik)
- ☐ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White  
(Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☐ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ☐ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of  
Cherokee Indians)
- ☒ Region 5: Jeff Mears (Oneida Nation), Chair
- ☒ Region 6: Craig Kreman (Quapaw Tribe)
- ☐ Region 6 *Alternate*: TBD
- ☒ Region 7: Page Hingst (Santee Sioux Nation of  
Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Misha Mazurkewycz (Ponca  
Tribe of Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 8: Joshua Tweeton (Spirit Lake Tribe)
- ☐ Region 8 *Alternate*: Allyson Two Bears  
(Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9: Carlotta (Carley) Whitecrane (Karuk  
Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: TBD
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone-Bannock  
Tribes)
- ☒ Region 10 *Alternate*: Kelly Wright (Shoshone-  
Bannock Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 (Alaska): Orville Huntington  
(Tanana Chiefs Conference)

***Support Personnel***

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary

**Action Items**

1. TSC members will read the monthly teleconference minutes to ensure that they are aware of current TSC activities, news and action items.
2. TSC members who are unable to attend the monthly TSC and Caucus calls will inform the appropriate Chair prior to these calls.
3. TSC members will share the Summer 2019 edition of the *EPA Tribal Science Bulletin* as broadly as possible among their networks.
4. TSC members interested in serving on the next Newsletter Team will contact Monica Rodia.

***EPA Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: TBD
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☐ Region 3: Regina Poeske
- ☐ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ☐ Region 5: Luke Hullinger
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☐ Region 6: Alexandra (Alexa) Olson
- ☐ Region 7: Amy Shields
- ☐ Region 7 *Alternate*: Amber Tilley
- ☐ Region 8: Alfred Basile
- ☐ Region 9: Rebecca Jamison
- ☐ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☒ AIEO: Francine St. Denis
- ☒ OAR: Amanda Kaufman
- ☐ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☒ OCSPP: Karen Hamernik
- ☐ OCSPP *Alternate*: Amanda Hauff
- ☐ OLEM: David Charters
- ☒ OMS: Beth Jackson
- ☒ ORD: David Jewett
- ☒ ORD: José Zambrana, Chair
- ☒ OW: Karen Gude

***Invited Speakers and Guests***

- ☒ Matt Small, EPA Region 9
- ☒ Chris Taylor, EPA Region 7

## **Key Discussion Points**

### ***Roll Call and Distribution of Meeting Minutes***

- Monica took the roll and explained that the June 2019 monthly call notes had been finalized and distributed to the members.
- TSC members should read the minutes each month to ensure that they are aware of TSC activities, news and action items.
- If members are unable to attend the monthly TSC and Caucus calls, they need to inform the appropriate Chair prior to these calls.
- The TSC support contract will be approved within the week, and Kristen LeBaron will be able to resume her support of the TSC.

### ***Caucus Report Outs***

- Dave Jewett reported that during its recent call, the EPA Caucus had discussed the next face-to-face meeting and summer newsletter, which will be covered later in this call. The newsletter was distributed to EPA leadership.
- A Tribal Caucus call was unable to be scheduled prior to this call, but the calls will resume before the August meeting.

### ***Report Out on Tribal Lead Curriculum Oneida Pilot Lead Test, Jeff Mears, TSC Tribal Co-Chair, Oneida Nation***

- A pilot test of the “Lead Awareness in Indian Country: Keeping Our Children Healthy!” curriculum was held on the Oneida Nation from July 9–10, 2019. The 22 participants included health, environmental, social and food safety professionals; Head Start Program staff; county department staff; and interns.
- The purposes of the tribal lead effort are to convene tribal partners to take action to eliminate childhood lead exposures through a tribal-driven and EPA-partnered approach; align the work with EPA and other federal efforts (e.g., *EJ 2020 Action Agenda: EPA’s Environmental Justice Strategy, Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposure*); ensure that tribal research and development, data, information, and so forth are considered; and understand and assess tribal lead exposures.
- The lead curriculum was developed through a partnership that includes EPA’s Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and Office of Research and Development (ORD) and the National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC) and TSC. The first step of the partnership was to create a tribal lead curriculum for education and outreach that includes relevant tribal scenarios and information.
- The purposes of the lead curriculum are to raise awareness about childhood lead exposures within tribal communities, understand lead’s potential impacts on children’s health and cultural practices, and encourage actions that can be taken to reduce and/or prevent childhood lead exposures. Community leaders are the target instructors for the curriculum, and recipients of the training include parents, grandparents, tribal and community leaders, teachers, daycare workers, health care providers, and youth ages 12 years and above. The modules will be provided to tribes, which will provide their own training based on their specific needs with their own community instructors.

- The focus of the curriculum is on actions related to personal hygiene and diet, home cleanliness and maintenance, and safe playtime. The graphic created by the group to highlight specific actions was particularly helpful for participants to understand and remember the actions.
- The four lead curriculum models are: (1) Understanding Lead, (2) Effective Cleaning Techniques, (3) Personal Hygiene and Nutrition, and (4) Hiring Certified Lead Professionals.
- Each module includes a detailed lesson plan, handouts and a PowerPoint presentation. Appendices to the material that provide in-depth information about various topics (e.g., foods that contain calcium, iron and vitamin C; supplemental information; tribal lead-related articles) were included as well. The PowerPoint presentation is designed to encourage tribes to use their own specific information and pictures to customize the presentation to meet their needs.
- Training on all four modules was conducted during the Oneida pilot test. An overview of the curriculum package, discussion about the curriculum, and the opportunity to provide feedback also were included.
- The highlights of the feedback are as follow:
  - *Very good.* The curriculum is: adaptive and will be useful for each community, highlights best practices, and communicates technical information into understandable terms.
  - *Suggested improvements.* The curriculum should: include the history of lead; limit text on the PowerPoint slides; include more activities, visuals and stories; include handouts for younger children; provide one-pagers for key take-away concepts for each module; include common questions for instructors; further explain the technical concepts in Module 4; and provide more handouts for Module 4.
- The next steps are to organize the feedback and make the appropriate revisions to the curriculum, perform three upcoming pilot tests in August and September 2019, finalize and publish the curriculum by December 2019, and conduct outreach and execute the communications plan in 2020. The upcoming pilot tests will be conducted at the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (sponsored by the Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee and NTTCC), on the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes reservation, and in Region 6 in New Mexico.
- During the Oneida pilot, EPA Region 5 provided verbal commitment to the effort.
- Monica commended the Oneida Nation on its execution of the pilot test, as well as all of the self-governance activities that the tribe is undertaking.
- In response to a question from Karen Hamernik, Jeff Mears explained that consumer-installed water filtration systems, such as those by Brita®, are effective in removing lead and have been used in Flint, Michigan. The packages of consumer-installed models clearly state that they remove lead. Ingestion and inhalation are the primary source of lead exposure; absorption (e.g., through a shower) is of lesser concern. One of the take-home points of the curriculum is that risk from lead can be effectively managed even when lead is present.

### ***TSC Business Items***

- *TSC Newsletter*
  - The Summer 2019 edition of the *EPA Tribal Science Bulletin* was published on July 1, 2019. TSC members should share the newsletter as broadly as possible among their networks.

- The next Newsletter Team will be established soon. TSC members who have not served on the Newsletter or Agenda Development Teams should consider doing so, as they will be able to provide a good deal of input on the articles for the newsletter and the agenda for the TSC face-to-face meetings. The commitment is minimal and enjoyable. The TSC-Chairs serve on both teams.
- *TSC Fall 2019 Face-to-Face Meeting*
  - The TSC Fall 2019 Face-to-Face Meeting tentatively will be held the week of Veterans Day 2019. Because of the holiday, the meeting will be abbreviated. As such, the meeting will be held from November 13–14, 2019, and travel days will be Tuesday, November 12, and Friday, November 15, 2019.
  - The most recently planned meeting was scheduled to be held in North Carolina and hosted by Katie Tiger's tribe, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, but that meeting was postponed because of the recent government shutdown. Katie's tribe is unable to host during the week of Veterans Day.
  - The next meeting will be hosted at an EPA facility, but many of the regional and ORD laboratories are unavailable to host the meeting in mid-November. The most viable options at this point are Research Triangle Park (RTP), North Carolina, Ada, Oklahoma, and Narragansett, Rhode Island.
  - The goal is to hold a portion of the tribal consultation on the ORD Strategic Research Action Plans concurrently with the next TSC face-to-face meeting.
  - Matt Small noted that the Region 9 office in San Francisco, California, has ample meeting space and volunteered to assist in hosting.
  - Chris Taylor noted that Region 7's training and logistics facility, which is housed in an underground limestone facility, is available during Veterans Day week.
  - The RTP, Oklahoma and Region 7 locations provide logistical challenges, whereas the San Francisco location is more expensive. Each location offers opportunities for unique tours. A potential San Francisco tour is of a green building in which EPA has performed research on gray and black water reuse.

### ***Announcements***

- Matt and José Zambrana explained that ORD has been trying to include states and tribes during its upcoming research meeting at the ORD laboratory in Oregon in September 2019, and Region 9 will be meeting with representatives from states and tribes at this meeting.
- EPA's Asthma Program will be holding a webinar, *Opportunities for In-Home Asthma Care in Native Communities: A Northwest Initiative and Tribal Pilot Project*, on July 23, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. EDT.
- The Region 6 Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting will occur July 17 in Santa Fe, NM.
- Kristen is available to help provide materials for TSC members who present about the TSC at local, regional and national meetings.

### ***Next TSC Teleconference***

- The next TSC teleconference will be held on August 26, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EDT.